

Message Text

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73

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 DOTE-00 DEAE-00 IO-15

JUSE-00 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

OMB-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-03 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

ACDA-19 DRC-01 /162 W

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R 272224Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9609

UNCLAS BOGOTA 8019

E O 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN CO SNAR

SUBJ: CIVAIR: SUGGESTED CONFISCATION OF AVIANCA PLANE

1. WIRE SERVICE STORIES IN LOCAL PRESS REPORT THAT ON SEP 24
BROOKLYN FEDERAL DISTRICT JUDGE JACK B WEINSTEIN REQUESTED
FEDERAL AUTHORITIES TO CONFISCATE AVIANCA BOEING 707 THAT HAD
BROUGHT FOUR COLOMBIANS CHARGED WITH DRUG SMUGGLING TO NEW YORK.
THREE WOMEN INCLUDING 16 YEAR OLD MINOR AND ONE MAN CHARGED
WITH POSSESSION OF DOLS 3 MILLION WORTH OF COCAINE. REPORTEDLY
JUDGE DECLINED TO SEND MINOR TO WOMEN'S PRISON ON RIKERS ISLAND
BECAUSE OF HER AGE AND SCHEDULED HEARING TO DETERMINE IF AVIANCA
SHOULD PAY HER LODGING UNTIL CASE IS HEARD. JUDGE'S COMPLAINT
AGAINST AVIANCA ACCORDING TO STORIES, IS AIRLINE'S FAILURE
TO ADVISE PASSENGERS OF STIFF PENALTIES AWAITING THEM IF CAUGHT
BRINGING NARCOTICS TO US. APPARENTLY SIMILAR REQUEST FOR CON-
FISCATION OF BRANIFF DC8, WHICH CARRIED THREE OTHER COLOMBIANS
CONVICTED OF DRUG SMUGGLING, PENDING SINCE AUG 3.

2. ACTING PRES OF AVIANCA, SABAS PRETELT, HAS WRITTEN EMB
PROTESTING THAT THERE LITTLE THAT AIRLINES, INCLUDING AVIANCA,
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CAN DO TO CONTROL ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFIC, NEVERTHELESS LETTER

PROFESSES CONCERN OVER SUCH TRAFFIC BETWEEN COLOMBIA AND US AND STATES QTE WE ARE DISPOSED TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN OUR POWER THAT IS CONSIDERED REASONABLE TO TRY TO STOP THIS TRAFFIC AND TO COLLABORATE WITH THE RESPECTIVE AUTHORITIES UNQTE.

3. REQUEST BASIS FOR RESPONSE CONCERNING POSSIBILITY OF CONFISCATION OF AIRCRAFT AND ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR UTILIZING AVIANCA'S OFFER TO COOPERATE AGAINST DRUG SMUGGLING BY ITS PASSENGERS.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005